

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau
Solid Waste Management Section
Metcalf Building
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

***CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS***

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION:

Mr. Jason Howell of HOWELL SEPTIC & EXCAVATING (STP License S-1020) has submitted an application for a new land application disposal site. HOWELL SEPTIC & EXCAVATING is located in Gallatin County and conducts business in Gallatin, Madison, and Lewis & Clark Counties.

The purpose of this checklist Environmental Assessment (EA) is to document environmental issues related to the disposal of septage and grease trap waste on the Parade Rest Guest Ranch LLP property in Gallatin County located in Section 16, T12S, R5E.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Septic Tank Pumper Disposal site application for a:

(check one only and complete a separate assessment for each site)

- ☐ Wastewater Treatment Facility
- ☒ Land Application Site
- ☐ Septage Processor or Composter
- ☐ Class II Landfill
- ☐ other (specify)

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN:

Source, Types and Amount of Wastes:

- ☒ Septage – estimated total gal/year **1,000**
- ☐ Portable Toilet/Vault Toilet Type Waste – estimated total gal/year
- ☒ Grease Trap Waste - estimated total gal/year **500**
- ☐ Sump Pumpings *(specify type below)*
 - ☐ Automatic Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - ☐ Attended Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - ☐ Unattended Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - ☐ Other Sump, specify: _____ estimated total gal/yr

4. Disposal Site Characteristics:

YES	NO	N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal description of proposed disposal site location provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	General description of disposal site location provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acreage adequate to manage proposed waste volume? <i>158 acres</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total proposed volume less than/equal to AAR?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Setback boundaries detailed on site map? (buildings, roads, drainages)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to building greater than 500-feet? <i>1/2 mile</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to state surface water greater than 150-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to state, federal, county, or city maintained road greater than 100-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to drinking water supply source greater than 100-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slope of land surface less than 6-percent? (subsurface injection less than 12%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depth to ground water greater than 6-feet? <i>25 ft</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landowner's permission of site use provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method provided?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AAR calculation provided? If not, then: <i>Septage AAR = 75/0.0026 = 28,846 gal/acre</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crop/yield information provided? <i>Grass @ 75#N/acre</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current use of proposed disposal site noted?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval available from WWTP within 25 miles of the point of generation during year when ground frozen or snow covered?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposal site property ownership information provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site restrictions noted? Animal Grazing Crop Harvesting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	List of equipment to manage wastes provided? <i>Tilling</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site access control noted?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method noted?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method adequate for site conditions?
If 'NO' checked for one or more items, provide explanation below			
<p><i>AAR calculated by Department based on licensee information.</i></p>			

5. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES WHENEVER ALTERNATIVES ARE REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND PRUDENT TO CONSIDER:

The Department considered three alternatives:

1. ☒ Approve the disposal site. The site meets all of the requirements of the Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act (Act). The site soils, slope, depth to ground water, approvals, and setback requirements have been met.
2. ☐ Not approved. The land application site fails to meet the requirements of the Act.
3. ☐ Have the applicant seek an alternative site. If this alternative is chosen, the applicant will have to seek another site for land application and could spend a large amount of time and potentially money to locate, study, and license another site suitable for septage land application.

6. EVALUATION OF MITIGATION, STIPULATIONS AND OTHER CONTROLS ENFORCEABLE BY THE AGENCY OR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

The proposed land application site and operation and maintenance plan must meet the requirements of the Montana Septic Tank, Cesspool, and Privy Cleaners Act, Air and Water Quality Acts and other Montana environmental laws and regulations as well as County ordinances. Compliance with these laws and regulations should keep any environmental effects to a minimum. The licensee will operate the site under the guidelines of the approved Operations Plan.

7. FINDINGS:

The Department finds that there would be little or no impacts to the physical and human environment if the septage is treated in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations. Therefore, a checklist EA is the appropriate level of analysis and an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. This treatment option is a beneficial reuse of a waste product.

EA prepared by: Renai Hill

Date: November 19, 2008

TABLE 1. Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Physical & Biological Environments.

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT ¹					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat				✓		
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution				✓		
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				✓		
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality				✓		
5. Aesthetics				✓		
6. Air Quality				✓		
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				✓		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				✓		
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites				✓		

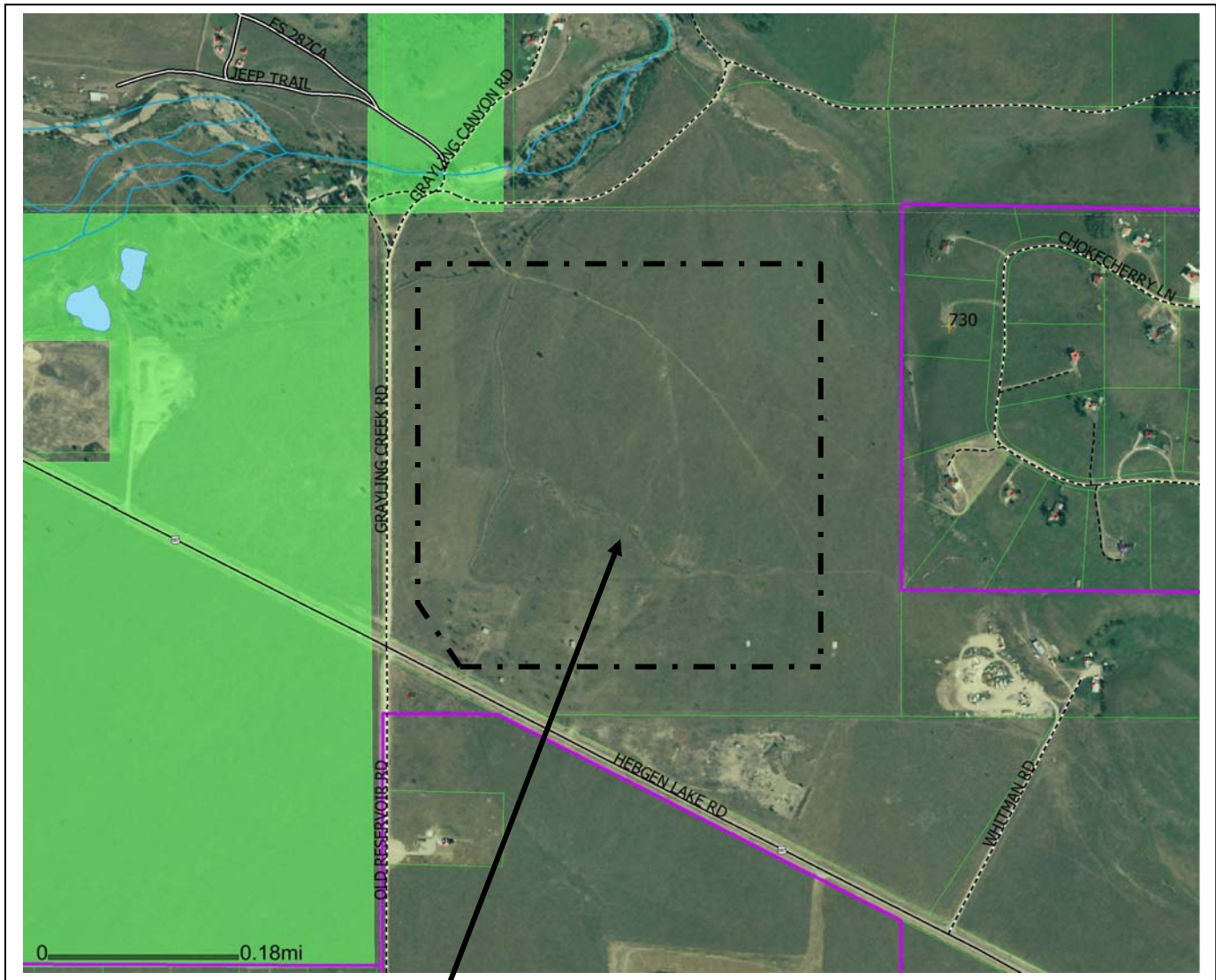
¹ CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: None for the Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

TABLE 2. Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Social & Economic Environments.

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT ¹					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Social Structure and Mores				✓		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				✓		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue				✓		
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				✓		
5. Human Health				✓		
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				✓		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment				✓		
8. Distribution of Population				✓		
9. Demands for Government Services				✓		
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity				✓		
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				✓		

¹ CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: None for Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

Figure 1: HOWELL SEPTIC & EXCAVATING
STP License #S-1020
Land Application Site Location
Gallatin County – Parade Rest Ranch Property
Sections 16, T12S, R5E



Approximate land application site boundary